

19 December 1951

MEMORANDUM


SUBJECT: Mission and Function of FDD

1. The Assistant Director, Operations, and the Assistant Director, Research and Reports met on 14 December to relate FDD operations to present O/R needs. The problem was described as a question of emphasis in selecting from among the recognized FDD functions those which should be emphasized and in establishing a priority among them.
2. The meeting was inconclusive on the total problem but certain points were established by the discussion:
  - a. The primary need of the research elements of the intelligence community is for an adequate indexing of foreign language materials, particularly in the economic, scientific and technical fields as they relate to the USSR and the Satellites.
  - b. With CIA support the Library of Congress is further developing its Slavic Union Catalog and indexing the periodical portion of its "Monthly List of Russian Accessions." Beginning 1 January 1952, the Library of Congress, with support from the National Committee for a Free Europe will similarly index Eastern European periodicals. Through extensive indexing those operations will meet the larger portion of this need. The proposed extension of the Slavic Union Catalog to include all U. S. governmental and private libraries will enhance its value. Materials on the Orbit, in non-Slavic languages as well as classified materials, and those not available to the Library of Congress or to any of its cooperating institutions, would remain to be indexed by FDD.
  - c. Newspapers represent very low grade ore from the research point of view and do not merit complete and systematic indexing. It was recognized, however, that the continued exploitation of newspapers on the basis of standing requirements would be useful and would in fact require some rudimentary form of indexing by FDD for its own purposes.
3. It was agreed:

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a. That FDD will index for the O/CD Reference files, all foreign language materials on economic matters in the Soviet bloc which are not covered by Library of Congress indexing activities. Current indexing practices in the scientific and technical fields would presumably be modified and extended to correspond.

b. That FDD and the Library Division of O/CD will examine the question of intelligence access to foreign language materials which are scattered through the agencies of the Government.

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Office of Intelligence Coordination

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